

## **Bios of Police Chief Finalists City of Grand Rapids**

### **Michael Yankowski**



Police Chief Michael Yankowski has been with the Lansing Police Department for 25 years and its chief since 2013. Lansing is a diverse urban city with a population of 117,000. Chief Yankowski leads a department with 248 sworn and non-sworn personnel. He has fully embraced community policing, implementing several programs to bring the community closer to the department. He has focused the Lansing Police Department's efforts in several key areas: building police and community trust, recruiting and hiring diverse employees, reducing violent crime, increasing training and officer wellness, and strengthening policy and accountability. Chief Yankowski also was instrumental in developing the policing strategies in Lansing that addressed marijuana dispensary safety issues. Before becoming Police Chief, he was a Captain responsible for the Patrol Division and 150 personnel. Chief Yankowski also has had assignments in Internal Affairs and as a Patrol Watch Commander, Canine Supervisor, Street Supervisor and Canine Handler. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal Justice and was class president of the graduate-level Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice staff and command course.

### **Larry Scirotto**



Retired Assistant Chief Larry Scirotto served with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police for 23 years. An accomplished and highly dedicated police executive with 14 years of management and executive leadership with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, which has an authorized sworn staff of 950 police officers, he was one of three assistant chiefs and the youngest in the department's history. Assistant Chief Scirotto began his executive leadership as commander of Zone 3 – the city's most known entertainment district – and then led the Major Crimes Division, which included all violent crimes against persons. He ascended to lead the Professional Standards Branch and was responsible for internal affairs, training education, officer wellness and safety, and policy oversight. He led the department's policy implementation efforts related to the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice, a project designed to improve relationships and increase trust between communities and the criminal justice system while also advancing public understanding of the issues contributing to those relationships. Assistant Chief Scirotto has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Ashworth University and plans to complete a master's degree in organizational development and leadership from Saint Joseph's University in early 2020. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. He is a fitness enthusiast and collegiate basketball referee.

### **Eric Payne**

Deputy Chief Eric Payne has been a member of the Grand Rapids Police Department for 33 years. As Deputy Chief of Operations, he oversees the Patrol Division, Special Response Team, Traffic Unit, Office of Special Events and Canine Unit. He leads five captains, eight lieutenants, 23 sergeants and 159 officers. Before becoming deputy chief, he served as Captain of the Investigative Division, which includes the Detective, Vice and Forensic Services units. The Division is comprised of 76 sworn and civilian employees. Deputy Chief Payne previously served as Captain of the South Service Area and the department's Crisis Negotiation Team. He also served as Administrative Lieutenant for the South Service Area and as a patrol watch commander. Deputy Chief Payne supervised the Major Case, Combined Auto Theft, Burglary and General Case teams. He was a field training officer, hostage negotiator and patrol officer. Deputy Chief Payne has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Grand Valley State University. He has advanced leadership training from the Law Enforcement Executive Leadership Institute and Leadership Institute for Police Executives and New Chiefs.

